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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0206

INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS

RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 7814

RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 1898

RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 3768

RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5009

RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1453

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC

RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI

RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC

RHFJSCC/COMMARFORPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 005437

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/16/2017

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [TH](#)

SUBJECT: THAI KING HOSPITALIZED AFTER STROKE; CONDITION  
REPORTEDLY IMPROVING

Classified By: Ambassador Ralph L. Boyce, reason: 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej was hospitalized on October 13 after what the Palace described publicly as inadequate blood flow to his left cerebral cortex, resulting in weakness on the right side of his body. Privately, Arsa Sarasin, the King's Principal Private Secretary, told the Ambassador late on October 13 that the King had suffered a minor stroke.

¶2. (C) The Ambassador spoke again with Arsa Sarasin on October 16. Arsa said the King's condition was improving, but he would need physical therapy for his right side. Arsa noted also that the King, whose enjoyment of jazz is legendary, would not be able to join in a jam session with the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, which will visit Thailand in the middle of November and perform at events in honor of the King's 80th birthday. Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn would represent the King at a mid-November Preservation Hall gala dinner organized in part by the Embassy, Arsa said.

¶3. (C) Comment: While the King appears to be recovering from this latest setback, his hospitalization reminds us how tenuous his health is, and how suddenly Thailand could be devastated by his loss.

BOYCE